Cooperation with South Asian Countries in Power Sector

2598. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established co-operation with the South Asian Countries in the field of power; and

(b) if so, the total MW of power likely to be obtained from those countries under various agreements?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Presently India is having co-operation with Bhutan and Nepal. Discussions with Bangladesh and Pakistan are in process and final agreements are yet to be reached.

(b) The total MW of power being obtained from these countries is as follows:—

s. No.	Name of the Country	Power likely to be obtained
1.	Nepal	50 MW
2.	Bhutan	320 MW

Completion of Chamera- Hydel Project

2599. SHRI ANIL SHARMA,- Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the original time schedule within which the Chamera Hydel Project was scheduled to be completed;

(b) the reasons which led to cost over run of the project; and

(c) the steps being taken to fix responsibility for the delay and cost over run of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Chamera H.E. Project Stage-I, was originally sanctioned by the Government of India in 1984, with commissioning by March, 1990. Thereafter, the approval of the Government was accorded for a revised cost and commissioning schedule upto March, 1994. The Project was successfully commissioned in March, 1994 as per the revised schedule, and event into commercial operation w.e.f. 1-4-1994.

(b) and (c) National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) Constituted a High Level Committee to probe into the reasons for, the time arid cost overruns for Chamexa HE Project" (Stage-I). The Committee identified the following to be the 'primary reasons for the cost over-run of the Project;

(i) High rate of interest during the construction period;

(ii) Exchange rate variations;

(iii) Increased cost of infrastructure, including roads, overhead etc.

The Committee, in its Report, concluded that the delays occurred during the process of various construction activities and overall delay in the commissioning of the Project was unavoidable and every possible steps was taken to minimise the same. Construction of the underground powerhouse and dam structure etc., of this magnitude is a collective responsibility of a group of engineers, technicians and other staff. The construction activities were totally inter-related and so much so the duties and responsibilities of various officials. The Committee, therefore, concluded that no single officer/person could be held responsible for the delay, which occurred during the execution of the project.